THIRD PASTORAL REPORT

OF

CHRIST CHURCH,

GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA.

PRESENTED TO THE CONGREGATION JULY 1, 1857,

BY

THE RECTOR.

PRINTED BY REQUEST OF THE VESTRY.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. S. McCALLA'S BOOK PRESS,
DOCK STREET, OVER THE POST-OFFICE.
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THIRD PASTORAL REPORT.

THE Rector, on this, his Third Anniversary, July 1st, 1857, presents for the use of the Congregation of Christ Church, his Triennial Report.

During the past year, as a congregation, the Lord's favoring hand has been over us; and, as the statistics show, a most gratifying prosperity has distinguished us,—a prosperity the most decided and real,—enough to fill us all who are identified with the success of our beloved parish, with feelings of deepest gratitude,—enough to make us "*thank God and take courage.*" May the publication of these statistics prove not only interesting to you, but also have the effect to prompt you to increased diligence in every work which has for its end the good of our parish, and the good of the whole church of Christ!

Parish Statistics,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1st, 1857.

Families belonging to the congregation, (exclusive of those families who attend only during the summer months,)			157
Baptisms,	Adult,	9	
"	Infant,	26	
"	Whole No.		35
Confirmations,			24
"	in the three years,		74
Communicants,	Added by removal,	54	
"	new,	37 : in all,	91
"	Lost by death,	4	
"	removal,	17 : in all,	21
	Present number		247
Marriages,			14
Burials,			14
Sermons and Lectures,			158
Pastoral visits,			531

Sunday-School.

INFANT DEPARTMENT.

Teachers,	2
Children,	129

HIGHER DEPARTMENT.

Teachers,	Male	13
"	Female	17
Pupils,		303

BIBLE-CLASSES.

Teachers,	3
Scholars,	35
Whole number of Teachers	35
" " Pupils	467
Superintendent, Teachers, Librarian and Pupils, about	504

Contributions of the Parish,

FROM JULY 1st, 1856, TO JULY 1st, 1857.

American Bible Society,		$83 00
Foreign Missions,	$465 00	
Domestic Missions,	360 00	
Sunday-school contribution for Foreign Missions,	600 00	
Sunday-school contribution for Domestic Missions,	200 00	
		$1625 00
Diocesan Missionary Society,	$216 71	
Bedford-Street Mission, and other home charities,	143 00	
Society for the conversion of the Jews,	117 00	
American Colonization Soc'y,	130 00	
Prot. Episcopal Hospital,	200 00	
		$806 71

Weekly collections for incidental church expenses,	$525 00	
Quarterly collection for the Sinking Fund,	163 51	
For Sunday-school purposes,	75 00	
" Organ,	369 00	
" Convention Fund and Episcopal Fund,	17 00	
Communion Alms,	253 42	
		$1402 63
Total for the year,		3917 64
Increase over last year,		1209 85

Making contributions for the last three years as follows :

For the year ending July 1, 1855,	$1171 68
" " " 1856,	2707 79
" " " 1857,	3917 64
	$7797 11

The Rector cannot record these charitable contributions of the past three years, made at a time when many thousands have been given towards the erection of our church edifice, without expressing his feelings of deepest

gratitude to Almighty God, who alone can inspire his people with the true spirit of Christian benevolence.

When every pecuniary incumbrance shall be removed from our parish, and our beautiful temple in all its parts—the spire, and the rooms for the Parish and Sunday-schools, Bible-classes, &c.,—shall be completed, he cannot but believe that this amount, now given to benevolent and missionary objects, will be greatly increased.

It certainly will, if as *stewards* of the Most High, accountable for all that we have in the day of settlement, we give conscientiously, from love to Christ, and as God hath prospered us. The Lord give you this feeling—the feeling so truly indicative of spiritual prosperity, of large love to the church and its living Head, and a desire for the world-wide extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

The Juvenile Missionary Association and Teachers' Union

HAS been greatly blessed in its work of missionary love. Hundreds of religious papers and many thousand pages of tracts have been distributed. Monthly visits to the homes of the children have been made, and some fifteen of the teachers and scholars have been added to the Redeemer's fold.

In answer to the urgent appeals of the Bishop of Africa, that a school-house might be erected at Cavalla, for the benefit of the Protestant Episcopal Mission established there, our Sunday-school resolved unanimously to respond to the bishop's appeal to erect the building.

The cost of the building will be about $2000. During the past year, the children have contributed $600 towards it, and they are now devoting their energies and prayers for its completion.

Believing that the work of benevolence lies at the foundation of all practical Christianity, and believing, moreover, that it cannot be too early lodged in the child's mind, the Rector desires that all the children throughout the parish, should take an individual interest in the cause of Christian missions. He would therefore suggest, that all the young members of the families living at a distance, and not attending the Sunday-school, form themselves into small societies, auxiliary to our Juvenile Missionary Society, take a name, and hand in their contributions at the opening of the boxes at Easter and Christmas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OF THE JUVENILE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, AND TEACHERS' UNION, FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1, 1857.

Receipts at the opening of the boxes Sept. 6, 1856,	$225	00
Receipts at the opening of the boxes December 28, 1856,	355	00
Receipts at the opening of the boxes May 2, 1857,	220	00
	$800	00
Increase over last year,	$315	21

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR.

For erection of Christ Church School-house, at Cavalla, Africa,	$600	00
For Bedford-St. Mission, Philadelphia,	50	00
For the church at Lock Haven, Rev. Mr. Dalrymple, Rector,	35	00
For distribution of Bibles, Prayer-books and tracts, by Colporteurs of the E. K. S. in Kansas,	35	00
For do. contributed by the Mite Missionary Class, for Nebraska,	15	00
For special charity from Hoffman Missionary Society,	5	00
	$800	00

WM. E. STONE, *Treasurer.*

Second Annual Report of the Dorcas Society of Christ Church.

THE regular weekly meetings of this society have been held throughout the winter, at which the average attendance was twelve. Number of members about thirty-two. About one hundred and fifty garments have been distributed, besides hoods shoes, and stockings.

The Treasurer's receipts have been—

Balance on hand from last year,	$18 14
Subscriptions,	23 00
Donations,	71 50
	$112 64

Amount paid for dry goods, &c.,	$84 54
Paid for cleaning room, &c.,	5 00
Balance on hand,	23 10
Total,	$112 64

In addition to the foregoing donations in cash, the treasurer acknowledges the receipt of various articles of dry goods, and three dozen pairs of shoes from sundry parishioners.

The report shows that the Dorcas Society is engaged in a most laudable work. It presents the strongest claims upon the benevolent in the parish, and the Rector hopes that in the coming season, the charities through this society, for the industrious and needy poor, will be greatly increased.

General Remarks.

THE Parish-school of Christ Church, under the superintendence of twelve managers, and a faithful pious teacher, will be opened early in the fall.

Contributions for the establishment and maintenance of this school are solicited.

The Parish Library, numbering about one hundred and fifty volumes, is open every Wednesday evening, from November to Easter, and every Friday evening, from Easter to November, directly after the lecture.

This library ought immediately to be enlarged, and its usefulness as an efficient ally to the pastor in disseminating sound religious instruction would thereby be greatly increased. Donations in money and books are accordingly invited.

As the financial condition of churches is

usually reported to the bishop, at the diocesan convention, there is no debt upon the church. But there is, we are sorry to say, a scrip indebtedness, which, in the course of a few years we are bound to pay.

For its liquidation, a Sinking Fund has been established, and in its aid a collection is made quarterly. The collections thus far have been very small, and unless largely increased, the debt in this way will never be liquidated.

A better way to get rid of the entire indebtedness, and remove the incumbrance which as long as it remains, must necessarily retard our spiritual progress, and hinder us in the discharge of the great work for which the Lord has established us, will be, to effect the sale of some twenty or twenty-five pews. If twenty generous parishioners, now renting pews, would feel an interest in this work enough to buy their pews, the desirable end would immediately be accomplished, and all our hearts would rejoice and be thankful. God grant that those who love our parish may not cease their labors till this is done, and Christ Church is free from every pecuniary burden.

The number of pews now sold, or rented in

whole or in part, is eighty-seven. The remaining pews are usually filled, partly by strangers, or by those who are unable to pay for sittings; while others occupy seats, who, we think, might, with little effort, hire sittings, and thereby add their quota to the revenue and support of the church. The semi-annual renting of the pews and sittings is held on the first Monday and Tuesday afternoons of January and June. The rents are payable at the same time. At any other time, seats can be obtained on application to either of the wardens.

Surveying the results of the past three years, and asking God "*of the days that are past*," we can truly say, notwithstanding the many things which we have left undone, our work has prospered in the hands of the Lord. With the pastor, vestry and people, there has been one unbroken harmony. Heaven's smile has been upon us.

From a little band of thirty families, we have increased to a goodly company of one hundred and fifty-seven. From a small company of forty communicants, kneeling at the Lord's table, we have become a sacramental host of two hundred and fifty. From sixty children, singing

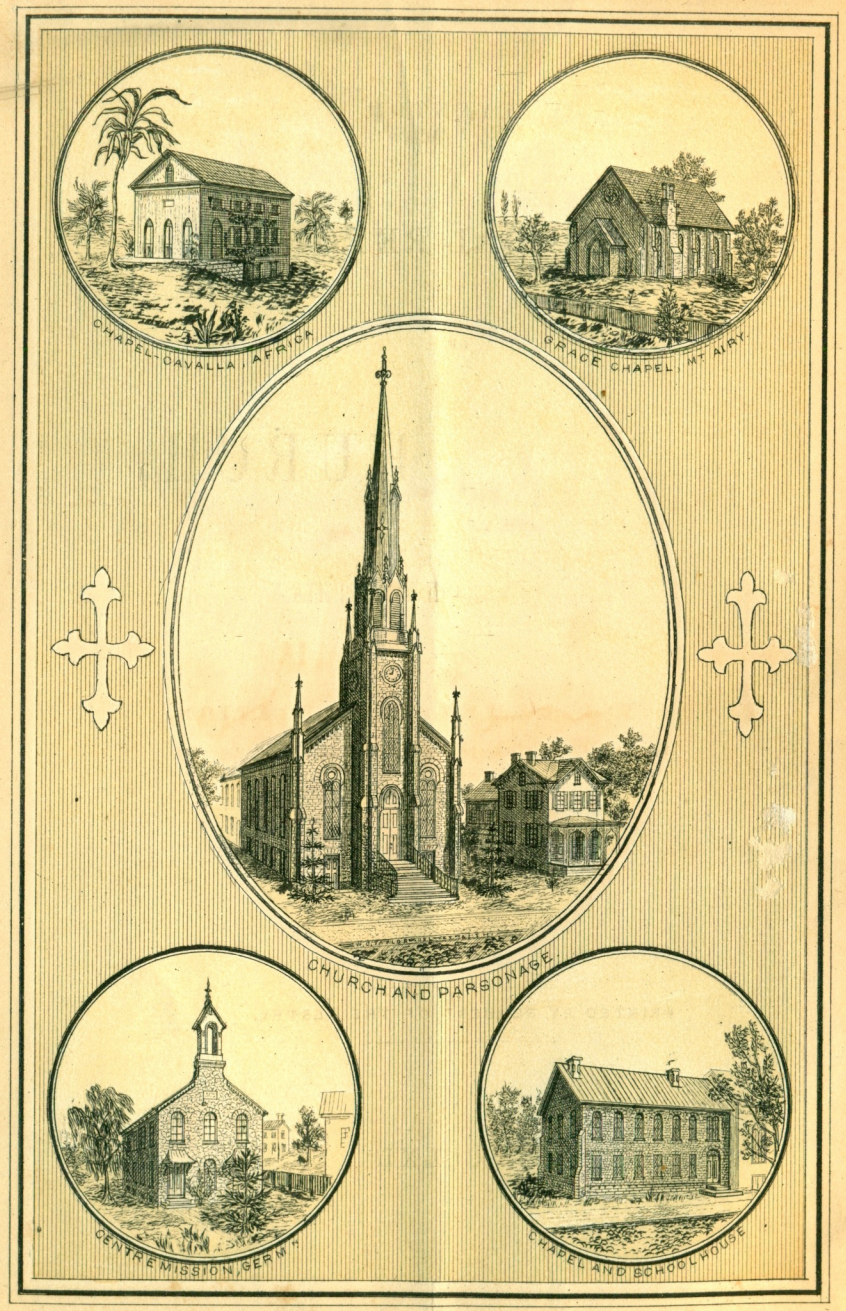
God's praises in the Sunday-school, we have increased to an army of four hundred and fifty. With much spiritual deadness in our parish to mourn over, we have, nevertheless, had our refreshings from the Lord. More than one hundred have renounced the world, the flesh, and the devil, and openly come out on the Lord's side.

For all these mercies vouchsafed us, in answer to united and individual prayers, let us render unto God our devout thanksgiving, and let us, with his hand of love ever over us, go forth to renewed and increasing labors in the most blessed cause of our Saviour.

With this triennial retrospect, and with the great future us, let me invoke you, beloved of my charge, to live more and more for Christ, more and more for the conversion of souls, more and more for heaven. And "*be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*"

Your friend and servant for Christ's sake,

A. B. ATKINS.



CHRIST CHURCH, GERMANTOWN.
AND ITS CHAPELS.

SEVENTH

PASTORAL REPORT

OF

CHRIST CHURCH,

GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA,

PRESENTED TO THE CONGREGATION,
JULY 1, 1861.

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MDCCCLXI.

☞ The Parish Library is open every Sunday a half hour before morning service, and directly after service, on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The rules of the Library will be found on the Library door. Donations for the Library are solicited, either in money or in carefully selected approved works.

The semi-annual renting of the pews and sittings is held on the first Monday and Tuesday afternoons of December and June. The rents are payable at the same time. At any other time, seats can be obtained on application to either of the wardens.

HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
Nos. 1102 and 1104 Sansom Street.

SEVENTH PASTORAL REPORT.

To the Parishioners of Christ Church, Germantown, Philadelphia:

My Beloved Parishioners,—

This Seventh Pastoral report is presented to you in the midst of disastrous and perilous times, when many of you are cast down because of the way, and when, whichever direction you look, except heavenward, all seems dark and portentous of evil. But it is your comfort to know that the Lord reigns, and that He is certainly making all things work together for your good, if only you are His, and loving Him in sincerity and truth. Be strong, therefore, in the Lord and faint not. Stand fast in Him, who *doeth all things well.* May the Great Head of the church who has so graciously watched over and sustained our parish during these seven years of its history, continue to be with us; and adding to our brotherly love and charity, may He make us all of one mind and one heart in those parochial works which are for our soul's blessedness, the enlargement of Zion, and the glory of the Master.

PARISH STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1ST., 1861.

Families belonging to the congregration, (exclusive of those who attend only during the summer months,)		227
Baptisms, Adult,	28	
" Infant,	47	
	—	75
Confirmations,		56
" in the seven years,		227
Communicants added by removal,		18
" new,		60
" lost by death,	5	
" " removal,	34	
	—	39
Present number,		321
Marriages,		1
Burials,		20
Sermons and Lectures,		219
Pastoral Visits,		843

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Number same as stated in former reports, and all under the immediate supervison of the Rector.

The number of children in the three schools are as follows:

PARENT SCHOOL.

Infant Department.

Teachers,	2
Children,	165

Intermediate Department.

Teachers, male,	13
" female,	19
Pupils,	281

Bible Classes.

Teachers,	5
Scholars,	47

GRACE FREE CHAPEL.

(*Mount Airy.*)

Teachers,	15
Children,	141

CENTRE MISSION SCHOOL.

(*Morton St., above Haines.*)

Teachers,	16
Scholars,	144
Whole number of Teachers,	60
" " Scholars,	720
Superintendents, Teachers, Librarians, Treasurers and Pupils,	780

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARISH.

Foreign Missions,	$320 00	
Domestic Missions,	346 00	
Sunday-School contributions for Home and Foreign Missions,	528 00	
Diocesan Missions,	300 00	
Ladies Missionary Society for Clergymen in Kansas and Iowa,	180 00	
Whole amount contributed for Home and Foreign Missions,		$1,674 00
Evangelical Knowledge Society,	65 00	
Protestant Episcopal Hospital,	102 00	
Bishop White Prayer Book Society,	20 00	
For Support of the Mission Schools, for Libraries, Papers, &c.,	326 00	
For Support of Episcopate,	100 00	
For Disabled Clergy,	20 00	
For Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews,	25 00	
For Sufferers in Kansas,	75 00	
Communion Alms,	300 00	
Pastoral Aid Association,	90 00	
For the Dorcas Society,	51 20	
Convention Fund,	20 00	
Weekly Collections for Incidental Expenses,	564 71	
For the Building of Chapels,	2,585 85	
For Removal of Scrip Indebtedness,	15,714 00	
Total for the year,		21,058 76

Making the entire contributions of the Parish, for the seven years, exclusive of all monies given for church building, parsonage, removal of scrip indebtedness, &c., as follows:

For the year ending July 1, 1855,	$1,171 68
" " " " 1, 1856,	2,707 79
" " " " 1, 1857,	3,917 64
" " " " 1, 1858,	4,444 07
" " " " 1, 1859,	4,552 59
" " " " 1, 1860,	5,145 30
" " " " 1, 1861,	6,111 46
Total,	$28,050 53

By referring to the above, it will be seen that each year since the organization of the parish there has been a steady, healthy increase in the amount of the benevolent contributions. For this we praise the Lord. But how shall it be the present year? Shall our next report show a sad deficiency? It *need* not be, it *will* not be, if the cause of Christ be as near to our hearts as the interests of our beloved country. I well know that many of you are straitened in your pecuniary abilities, and that you *think* you can do but little or nothing in the way of benevolence. But ask yourselves, if perhaps, by retrenching in your luxuries, and even in *your comforts*, and by cultivating actual self-denial you cannot keep the amount of your contributions at least equal to what they now are. It is said of the late Henry Thornton, of London, that when heavy losses came upon him, he always investigated his charity account. Poverty and "hard times" form no excuse for lack of benevolence; so far from it, they ought to stimulate us to a more diligent discharge of the duty.

Let every other cause suffer, if need be, but oh! do not allow the work of Christ to be hindered, and the Gospel cause to be checked in its progress for the world's conversion. If we let our economy begin at the house of God, and if we allow the institutions of the church to languish and die, sure am I, that the Lord will still further punish us as a people, and bring a heavier curse upon us.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

May you hearken unto the voice of the Lord our God, and may this year, bringing to you heaven's richest blessings, show that your offerings for the Master have in no wise diminished, but the rather *increased*, for the salvation of souls, and the glory of God!

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

The Parent Sunday-school, and the two Mission Sunday-schools, have been abundantly prospered in the Lord. The average attendance has been much larger than during any previous year, the grade of recitation higher, the deportment more commendable, and we have reason to believe, that there has been an increased religious interest among the children, a better attendance upon the services of the church, and some inquiring their way Zionward. Nine have been added to the church in the rite of Confirmation, and, I trust, are now making a good confession before men.

GRACE FREE CHAPEL.

The Sunday-school at Grace Free Chapel, (Mount Airy,) under its efficient superintendent, aided by my assistant, and a faithful corps of teachers, will this year do a better work than ever. The regular Sunday services at the Chapel, and the weekly Cottage Prayer Meetings under the auspices of the Pastoral Aid Association, will carry the blessings of the gospel to large numbers who have for a long time lived without hope and without God in the world. The special need at the Mission is a few more praying, self-denying teachers. Who will come forward and say, *"Here am I, send me?"*

CENTRE MISSON.

The new Chapel and Sunday-school house of this interesting mission, was consecrated to the service of Almighty God,

by Bishop Potter, Sunday afternoon, March 3rd. Since that time the Sunday-school has greatly increased.

A Bible class for male adults has been organized, and a weekly Prayer Meeting commenced. The Sunday afternoon devotional service which has been held, without intermission, for the last four years, in the old carpenter shop, is now held in the chapel. The Rector would be glad to see more of his flock attending this informal lay-service; he has found it refreshing to his own soul, and he is convinced that none can be there without receiving some spiritual benefit. The cost of the Chapel was $1,833 37, one thousand of which has been paid, leaving eight hundred dollars still due the contractor. I earnestly hope the friends of the mission will make such self-denying efforts, that the indebtedness may be speedily cancelled, and that, as with our church, and Grace Chapel, we can say, out of debt to man, only owing the Lord the honor due his holy name.

CHRIST CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL HOUSE, CAVALLA, AFRICA.

The following letter to the readers of the "Carrier Dove," from one of our most beloved missionaries, Mrs. Hoffman, will give you a good description of this building erected by the children of our Sunday-school.

Boy's School House, Cavalla, W. A.

My Dear Children:—You have before you a very good picture of the School House at Cavalla, which I went through some time before I left Africa. The stairs run through the centre of the building, and in the upper story, on the right side of the entry, we enter into the nice large airy dormitory; here each boy has a wooden chest for his clothing, and beside it neatly rolled up a straw mat and blanket for sleeping upon

at night. Perhaps you may think this rather a hard bed when compared with your own nice soft warm beds; but let me tell you, my dear children, before they came to live in this comfortable house they had no clothing, and slept at night on the hard ground in a smoky hut.

On the left side is another pleasant room with a table and benches; here the boys have the liberty of retiring to study, and to read or write, when they are not otherwise employed. Below these is the pleasant school-room, where about thirty native youth receive daily instruction, not only in worldly knowledge, but also in those things which belong to their eternal peace. Their teacher is Charles Morgan, a native youth, who received his education at Cavalla. More than one third of the scholars have been baptized and are communicants, and we trust will soon be able to go forth among their benighted people bearing the precious seeds of truth. On the same floor with the school-room is the printing office, in charge of Mr. T. Toomey. From here our little paper, the "Cavalla Messenger," is issued every month. In the basement is a comfortable dining-room and one or two nice store-rooms, where rice and other things are kept.

Would you like to know how we got enough money to build our beautiful and convenient school house far off in Africa? If you could read what is on the marble slab over the front entrance, you would find this inscription—

"ERECTED BY THE CHILDREN OF
CHRIST CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL,
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA,
U. S. A."

One Sunday-school, by their persevering, self-denying efforts, accomplished this great object. Nearly all of the

money *was earned* in various ways; one little boy made paper kites, and sold them for five cents a piece, and brought all the proceeds to his teacher to help build this school house. So you see, my dear children, we can all do something for our blessed Saviour if we only *try*. Remember always, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" C. M. H.

CHAPEL AND SUNDAY-SCHOOL BUILDING OF CHRIST CHURCH.

The large building now being erected in the rear of the church will be, when completed, what we all for years have earnestly longed for. Containing a lecture room with some 400 sittings; a large Sunday-school room sufficient to accommodate 450 children; an infant room to hold 200; rooms for Library, Vestry, and Robing purposes, and six Bible Class rooms; these well ventilated and commodious will furnish a desideratum at present greatly needed. But *shall* we finish it this season? This is the question which just now most deeply concerns us. According to a resolution passed at a late meeting of the Vestry, the work cannot progress except as the committee have the money in hand. A debt will not be incurred, and they have barely funds enough now to complete the roof. That done, the work must be suspended, unless additional funds be immediately raised. When the importance of the work is thought of; when the need for the building is considered; I have faith that He who deviseth liberal things will move your hearts to put forth the most earnest efforts. Efforts that will not cease till the desired work is accomplished. Once within its hallowed walls we will praise God in his holiness, and we will tell of the goodness he has shown us in giving us so goodly a temple for the honor and glory of his great name.

Treasurer's Report of the Juvenile Missionary Association of Christ Church, for the year ending July 1, 1861.

Receipts at the opening of the boxes, September, 1860,	$131 00
Receipts at the opening of the boxes, Christmas, 1860,	280 00
Receipts at the opening of the boxes, Easter, 1861,	114 00
	$525 00

Disbursements for the Year.

For erection of Christ Church Chapel and Sunday-school Building,	$296 00
For erection of Centre Mission Sunday-school House,	229 00
	$525 00

WILLIAM E. STONE,
Treasurer.

THE ASSISTANT MINISTER.

Rev. Francis Nutt entered upon his duties June 17th. Besides aiding me in the work of the Parish, he will generally officiate on Sunday afternoon at Grace Free Chapel, Mount Airy, and act with the committee of the Pastoral Aid Society, in the Cottage Prayer Meetings of that District. He can be found at the boarding house of Mrs. King, Main Street, below Walnut Lane.

THE SCRIPTURE READER.

James Flaherty, has continued his visitations for a portion of the time during his vacation at the seminary. He has held religious conversation with numbers who habitually neglect the house of God, has left with them many pages of precious gospel truths, and in the social and family meeting, pointed them to "*the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.*"

More and more would I commend to your sympathy and prayers this mode of religious visitation conducted by the Scripture Reader, and by the members of the Pastoral Aid Association.

PASTORAL AID ASSOCIATION.

This Association for special lay effort was organized on the 19th of November, 1860, and since that time has been actively engaged in its work of Christian love.

The following article from its Constitution will at once show its object.

"The object of this Association shall be the spiritual edification of its members, and others; the temporal welfare of the deserving poor, and the extension of the Kingdom of Christ. The means to be used in the accomplishment of the objects above specified, shall be the organization of Mission Sunday-schools, Bible Classes, Cottage Lectures, Religious and Instructive Readings, the distribution of Tracts, Bibles and Prayer Books, the visiting of the sick and poor, and by the employment of any other instrumentalities which may be thought proper by the Association."

The Vice President of the Association presents the following report of the Society's doings for the first six months:

The parish has been divided into a number of districts, each of which is placed under the care of visitors who seek to bring christian influences to bear upon those who have hitherto lived in spiritual isolation or indifference. These visitors uniformly meet a cordial welcome from all classes, and, while careful to avoid every shadow of interference with other church relationships, they receive many a "God speed" from those who are not of our profession. Their visits have been the means of

opening a new life to families who had previously been neglectful of religion.

The spiritually destitute,—and these are confined to no particular walk of life,—have been made to feel that christians do care for their souls; and active sympathy, by "going out into the highways and byways," is doing a work which never could have been done by the church "sitting at ease" and waiting for the people to come to her. Within the few months of the Society's existence, we have been permitted to see abundant evidences of God's blessing upon its operations. The intemperate have been reclaimed; family altars have been set up in new places; sinners have been hopefully converted; backsliders have been restored; children have been brought into the Sunday-school; social Prayer Meetings have been established; and opportunities for religious conversation improved. Pressing temporal wants have also been relieved.

Four Cottage Prayer Meetings in connection with this Society are now held: two in the Mount Airy district, on Thursday and Friday evenings, and two in the neighbourhood of the Centre Mission, on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday evening.

The reports of the Society show that a large number of families have opened their doors to the visits of its members. Since its organization there have been more than one thousand religious visits made, nearly one hundred Prayer Meetings held, and about forty families assisted.

If you desire, my beloved, to be engaged in some positive active work for your Divine Redeemer, I do not know how, or where you can find a better field than here, in the duties of this Association. You will come directly in contact with souls for whose salvation you are bound to labor, whom, with faithful working, and praying sympathy, you will be the

means, in the Master's hand, of not only ameliorating, but lifting out of darkness and sin into the light and blessedness of the everlasting gospel. "*The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few.*" Will *you* come and labor with us?

Permit me to say, if you would be real followers of Him "*Who went about doing good,*" and so inherit the promises, then you must be *active* Christians, you must be *doing* Christians, not of words only, but also of deeds. Remember the dying words of Leigh Richmond:—"Brother, we are none of us more than *half* awake." Aroused from this *formal* christianity, which has too long retarded the church, and "*full of good works,*" may you labor for Jesus "*while the day lasts, knowing that soon the night cometh when no man can work.*"

"HEART AND HAND" SOCIETY,

Was organized March 19th, 1861. Its object is to promote kindly fellowship for the mental and religious improvement of its members. Its meetings, which are held once a week, are now attended by about thirty men and women, principally heads of families.

The happiest effects have followed this organization, and, from what has been already observed, we expect, with the continuance of divine favor, to see its members illustrate the engagement under which they have placed themselves,—"to strive, with God's help, by their life and conversation, to recommend their Association; and to raise their companions and others, by sympathy and counsel, to paths of respectability and virtue."

Within this Society there is found

THE "RESCUE BAND."

An Association whose members are pledged to an uncompromising warfare against the use of intoxicating liquors.

Instances are frequently brought to our knowledge, in connection with both these Societies, which, if they could be particularized here, would rejoice the heart of every lover of Christian progress. It is enough to say that we find in them an earnest of our Lord's readiness to prosper every work undertaken in His strength and for His glory.

Wherefore, brethren, let me "put you in *remembrance to stir up the gift of God, which is in you.*" "*And whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*"

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DORCAS SOCIETY OF CHRIST CHURCH.

There have been about one hundred and ten garments distributed, (including shoes, stockings and hoods.)

The Treasurer's receipts have been:—

In donations,	$34 00
By Annual Subscriptions,	23 50
Total,	$57 50
Amount paid for work, materials, &c.,	$54 50
Paid Sexton for care of room, &c.,	3 00
Total,	$57 50

The Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of several pieces of muslin, flannel, chintz, and shoes and stockings, from different members of the congregation.

The Ladies purpose hereafter increasing the *industrial* efficiency of the Society, giving out all work at nominal prices, and so encourage as far as possible the self-supporting efforts of the deserving poor. I would express the hope that the Ladies of the Parish will generally co-operate in the work of this Society.

LADIES MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The following abstract from the Annual Report of the Secretary will show the operation of this excellent Society:

"The families of two needy missionaries, one in Kansas, one in Iowa, and a young man studying for the ministry, have been assisted with articles of wearing apparel, groceries, &c. There have been distributed 159 garments. The letters received from the persons thus aided, have been full of deepest gratitude, and have greatly encouraged the ladies in their labor of love."

The Society's efficiency would be greatly increased, and many a toiling missionary's home made joyous, if more of the mothers and daughters of Israel would enrol themselves among its *active* members. It has held two meetings a month during the fall and winter.

Let us hope that its usefulness may hereafter be increased fourfold.

REMARKS.

Much has been written during the past year, more, I apprehend, than in the previous twenty years, upon the question: "What constitutes a thriving Parish?" If you will permit me to give my answer to this question, I should say, an intense spirituality among the members of the communion. The Holy Ghost dwelling largely in their midst, and all, from the oldest to the youngest, asking the Master, "*What will thou have me to do?*" An uniform, steady, and faithful attendance upon the stated means of grace, the informal social services, meetings for prayer, &c., such as we now have on Friday evening and in private houses; these coupled with the soul in constant communion with God in Christ, which is the very life of the Christian, can not fail to make a parish efficient *indeed!* These not manifest, I care not what may be the wealth and machinery of a church, it cannot thrive in divine things. What, then, my dear parishioners, is your present state? Are you still saying, each, and all, "*Draw me, I will run after thee?*" "I will not slacken my pace because by thy Grace I have advanced somewhat in the way, but like the courser, put forth my fastest speed, as I draw near my end." Let it be thus with you all. Then God will make our beloved parish a blessing to multitudes, and in the years to come your children and your children's children, will look back and say, "*What hath God wrought?*" And now rendering thanksgiving and praise to our Heavenly Father, for all the mercies and goodness which he has conferred upon

us as pastor and people, in the years that are past, and asking for a continuance of the same, and commending you as heretofore to "*God and the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*" I would earnestly entreat your prayers for myself and my assistant; that God may grant us patience and zeal—may make us faithful to our Divine Master, and preserve us "*blameless till the day of Christ.*" I would entreat also your prayers one for another, and more especially for the weak and timid and those whom Satan may harass. Be ye "*living epistles, known and read of all men,*"—"*followers of God,*"—"*walking in love.*"—"*looking unto Jesus,*"—"*waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" And may "*mercy and peace and love be multiplied*" unto you *all through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Your affectionate pastor,

A. B. ATKINS.